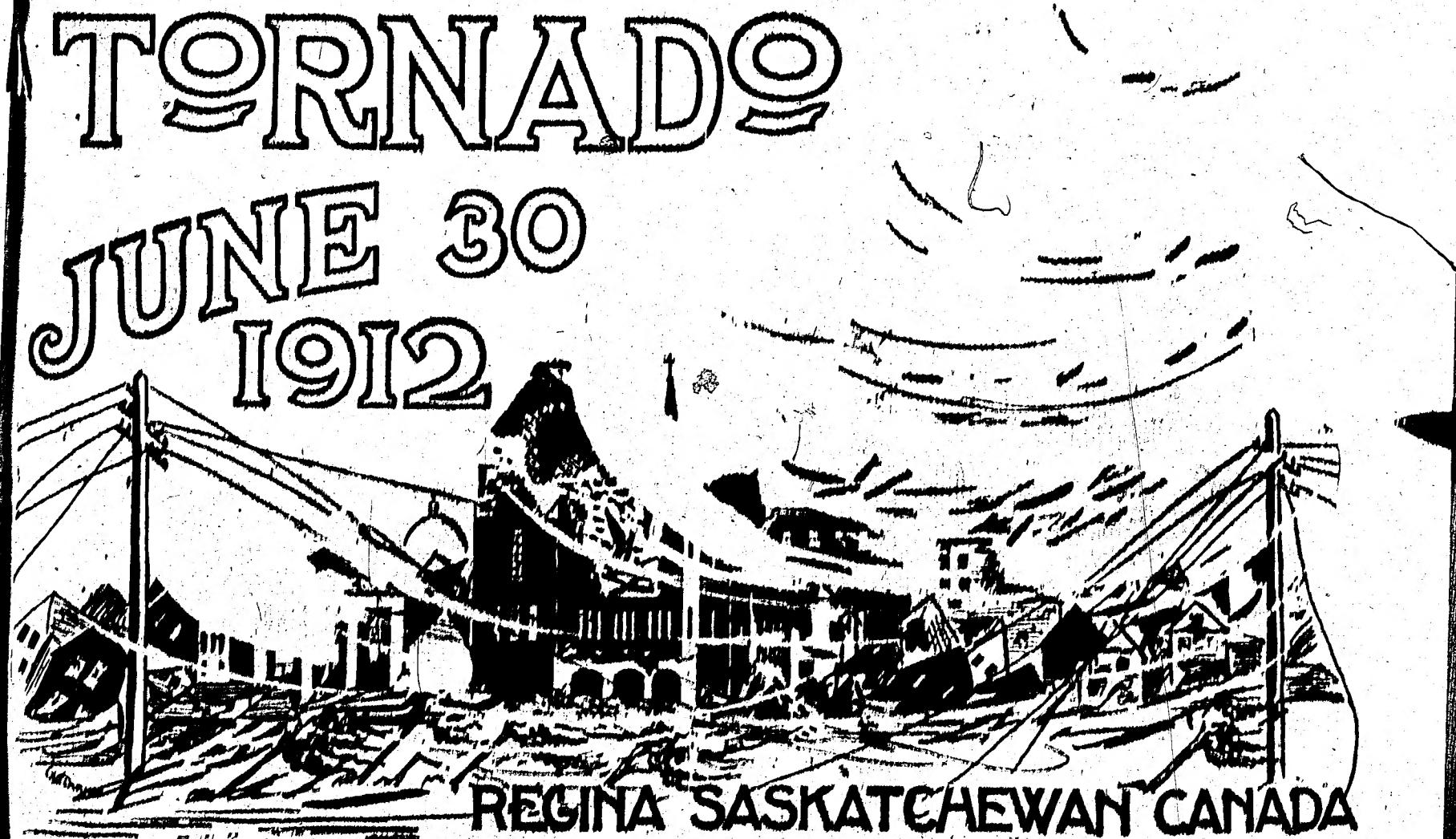


# REGINA TORNADO

JUNE 30  
1912

Robert Somerville.



REGINA SASKATCHEWAN CANADA

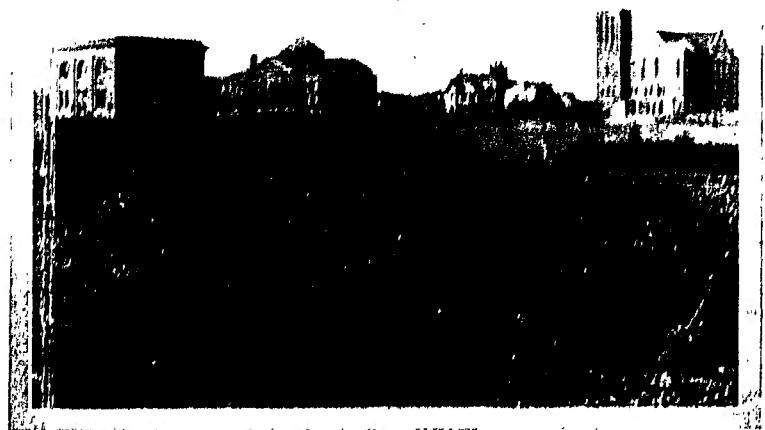
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REGINA is the capital of Saskatchewan (the third province in Canada in point of population) and the largest city in the province. The population at the census of 1911 was 30,200, while on the 30th day of June, 1912, the day on which the great tornado occurred, the population was not less than 40,000. Regina during the last decade increased in population in greater proportion than any other city in Canada. In the value of buildings erected during last year per thousand of population, Regina also led all other Canadian cities.



VICTORIA PARK, REGINA, BEFORE THE TORNADO  
Every building shown above was either wholly or partially destroyed.

## *Regina's Day of Horror*

**S**HOCKING DAY, June 30, 1912, will go down into history as the blackest day in Regina's otherwise uninterrupted period of splendid prosperity and peaceful progress.

With the city in full attire, and elaborate preparations being made for the morrow, the day that was to have been the greatest holiday Regina had ever seen, it was visited with a death dealing tornado which plunged the city into mourning. In the short space of twenty minutes twenty-eight persons were killed or sustained injuries from which they afterwards died, hundreds were more or less severely injured, twenty-five hundred were made homeless, and over four hundred of the finest buildings in the city valued at more than five million dollars were laid low.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, following a day of extreme heat, and with no warning of the approach of a static or certain, an atmospheric disturbance technically described as a combination of tornado and cyclone swept over a portion of Regina with results described above.

At the southern extremity of the city where the most important buildings housing the departments of the Saskatchewan Government, and characterized as the most stately building in all Canada, is situated, two storm clouds met and swooping down bore a path two to three blocks wide across the entire city.

No building that lay in the path of the storm was

strong enough to withstand its fury, and some of the most magnificent structures in the Canadian West were torn asunder and laid low.

Bordering Victoria Park were a group of buildings, the pride of Regina and a credit to any city. Of these not one escaped. Metropolitan Methodist Church, that cost \$25,000; Baptist Church, a new building erected only a few months ago; Presbyterian Church, one of the finest Presbyterian churches in the West; the Y. W. C. A., a four-story brick and stone building opened only about a month before; the Carnegie Library, occupied only a few weeks; the Y. M. C. A., and the Methodist parsonage, all fell victims to the storm king.

Wreeping on to the north the Telephone Exchange building, the largest in the province and the centre of the Government telephone system, was completely destroyed, though by a most providential intervention the half score of operators who were on duty at this hour, the long day of the week, were saved, some of them after having been in the ruins for hours.

The warehouse and railway sections were next in line of the range of the destructive agency. The large distributing plants of the big machinery manufacturers were many victims. Of the number of grain elevators only one remained standing, and it badly damaged. Loaded cars standing on sidings were blown about like paper boxes and their

contents scattered to the four winds. Immense distributing warehouses in the rapidly expanding wholesale district fared no better than smaller or less pretentious buildings, the losses to some individual firms alone amounting to over \$200,000.

On the north side, beyond the wholesale section were hundreds of residences occupied by the better class of mechanics and workmen. The havoc wrought among them was indescribable. Homes were lifted from their foundations and completely demolished, in some cases not a vestige of the building that once stood there being left.

There is a bright side even to this story, however. The splendid spirit of indomitable courage, industry and

optimism manifested itself and before the sun had set on that Sunday afternoon's havoc plans were being laid to build from the ruins the bigger and better Regina that is to be. The injured were tenderly cared for, the dead were reverently laid away, and the work of reconstruction was commenced.

Dominion Day will always be a day of mourning in Regina. It will also be a day in which memories will be directed backward to that Sunday afternoon when ruin, suffering and death gave the opportunity for the exercise of Western Canadian character - true, unquenchable optimism and dauntless courage.



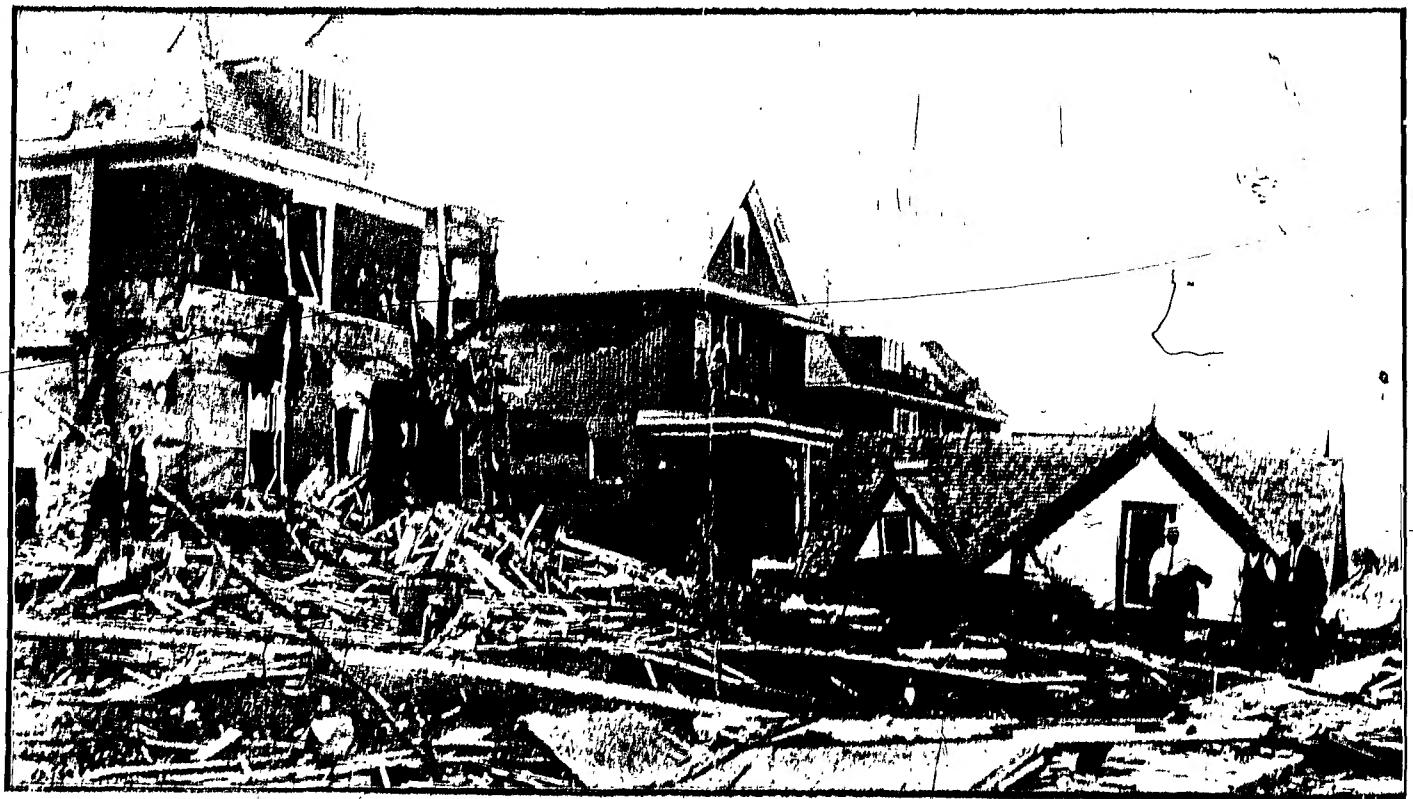
View showing west side of Victoria Park. Buildings reading from left to right are: Metropolitan Methodist Church, V.W.C.A.,  
Methodist Parsonage, Curwen Library, Diamond Block at extreme right.

Photo by H. W.



Looking south on Elm Street, showing Y. W. C. A. and Methodist Church.

Photo by Ross



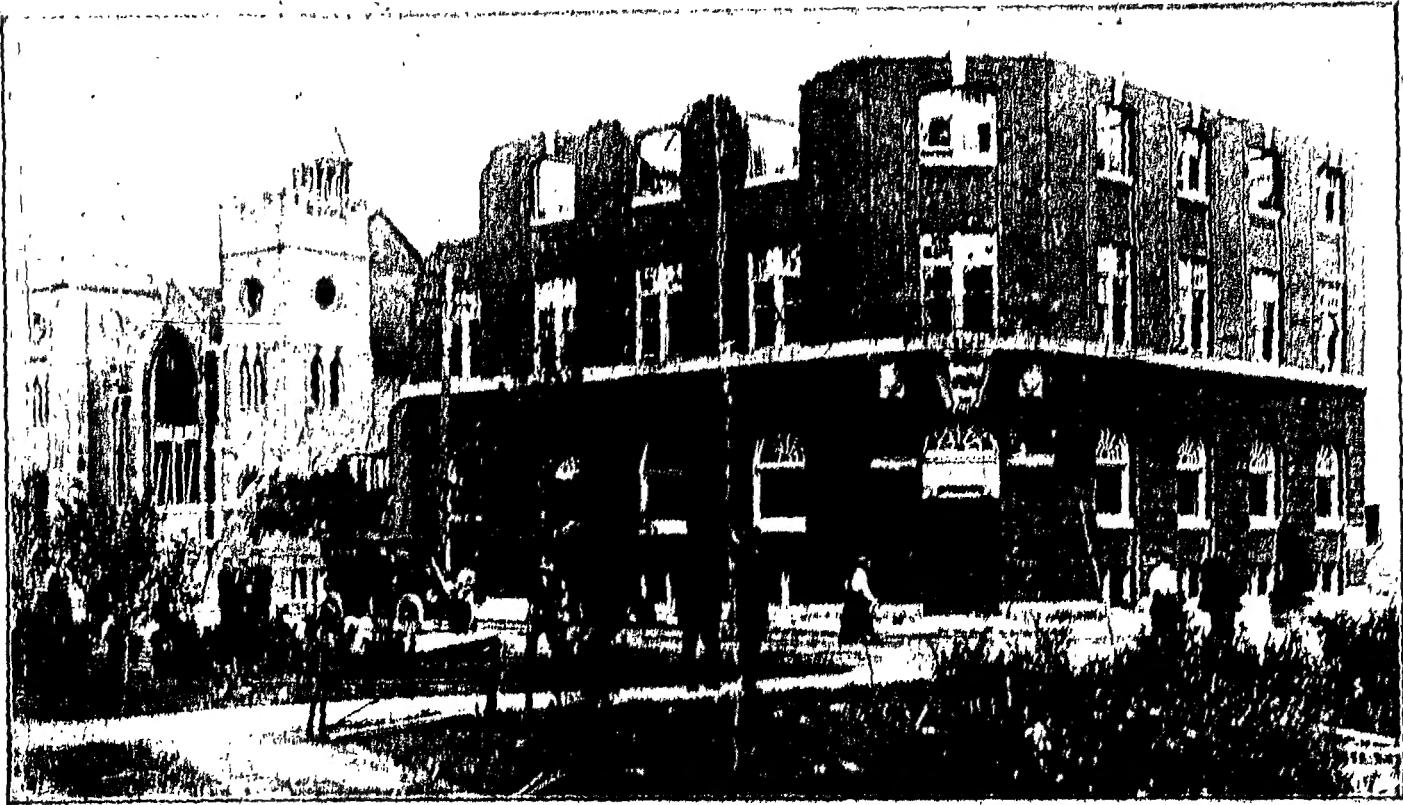
Scene at the corner of Sixteenth Avenue and Smith Street. Upper story of house was blown from across the street with eight persons in it at the time. All escaped uninjured.

- Photo by Russel



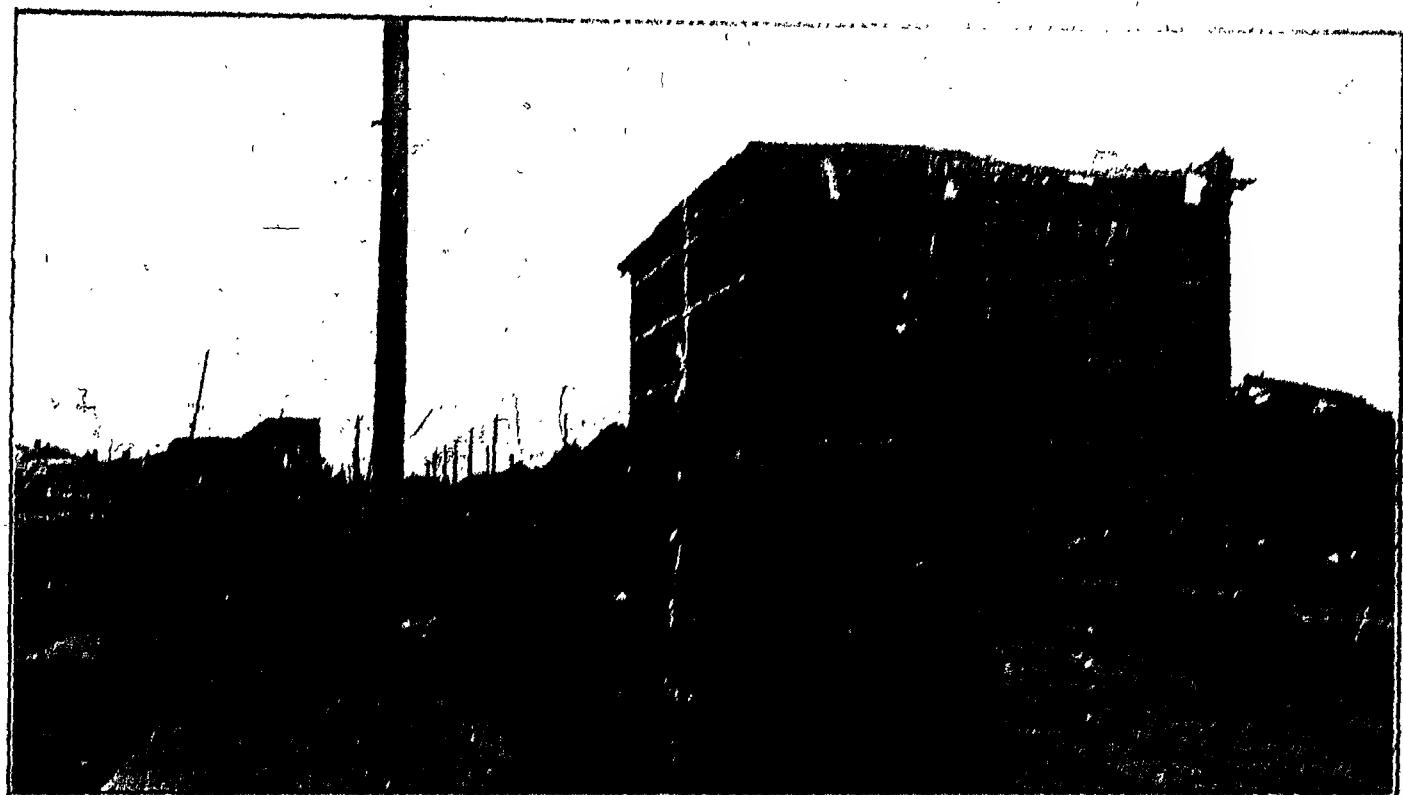
Another view of Eleventh Avenue and Smith Street. This section is the centre of the City's best residential district.

Photo by George



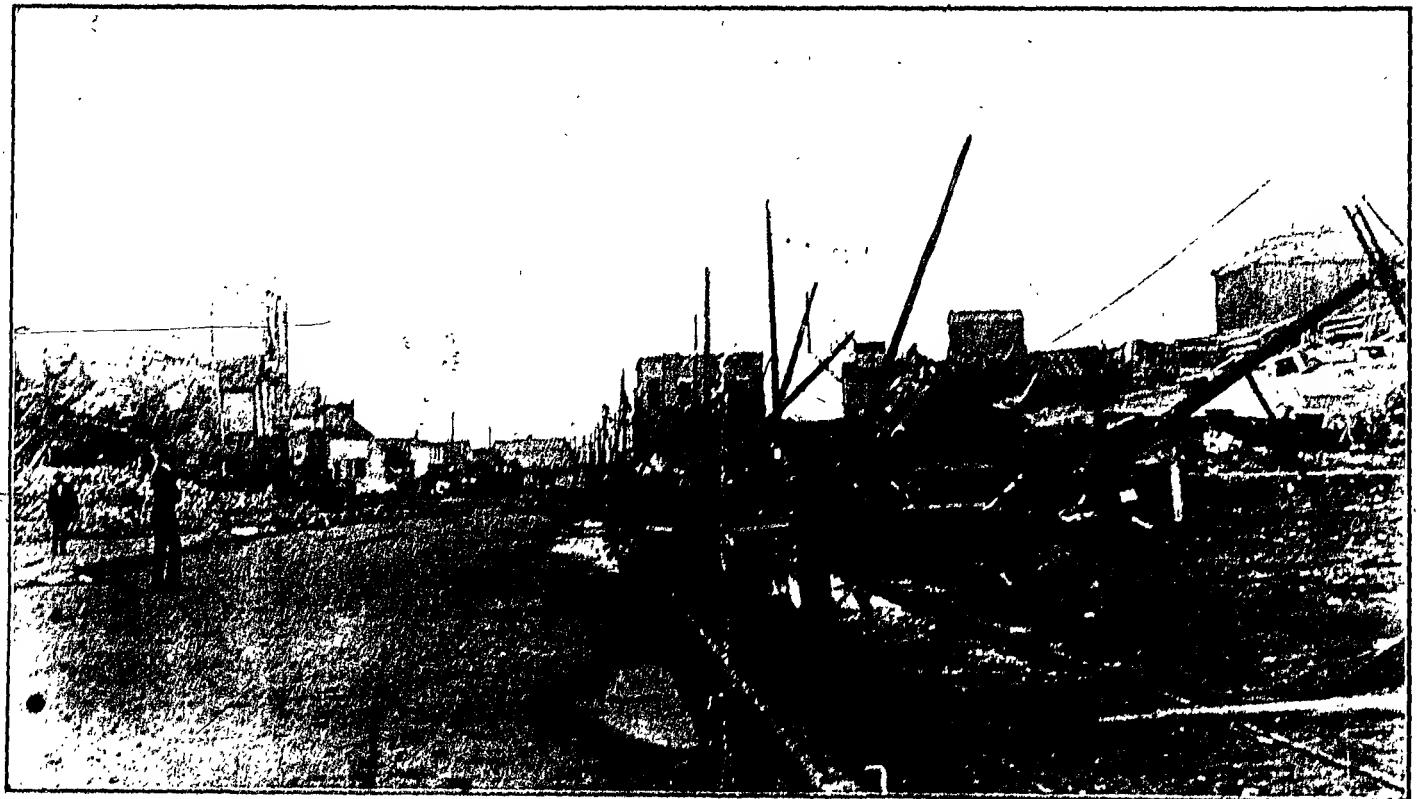
Y. M. C. A. Building, half of which was destroyed, though fortunately none of the inmates were injured.

--Photo by Roots



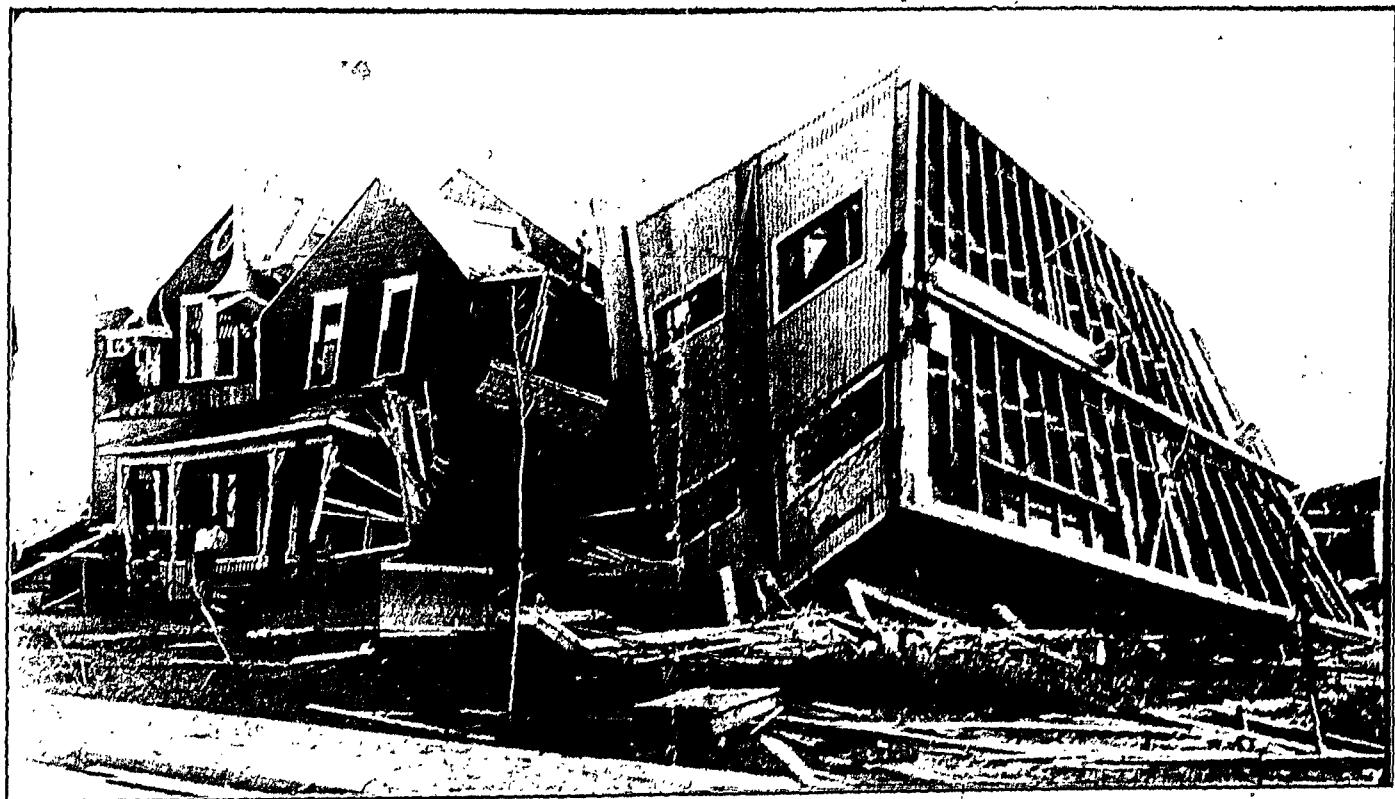
Barracks lining both sides of Telegraph Avenue were destroyed with most of their contents

Photo by Danca



*On South Railway Street, the centre of the Carriage and Implement warehouse section.*

*Photo by Rossie*



Immense buildings were overturned as illustrated here.

—Photo by Rossie

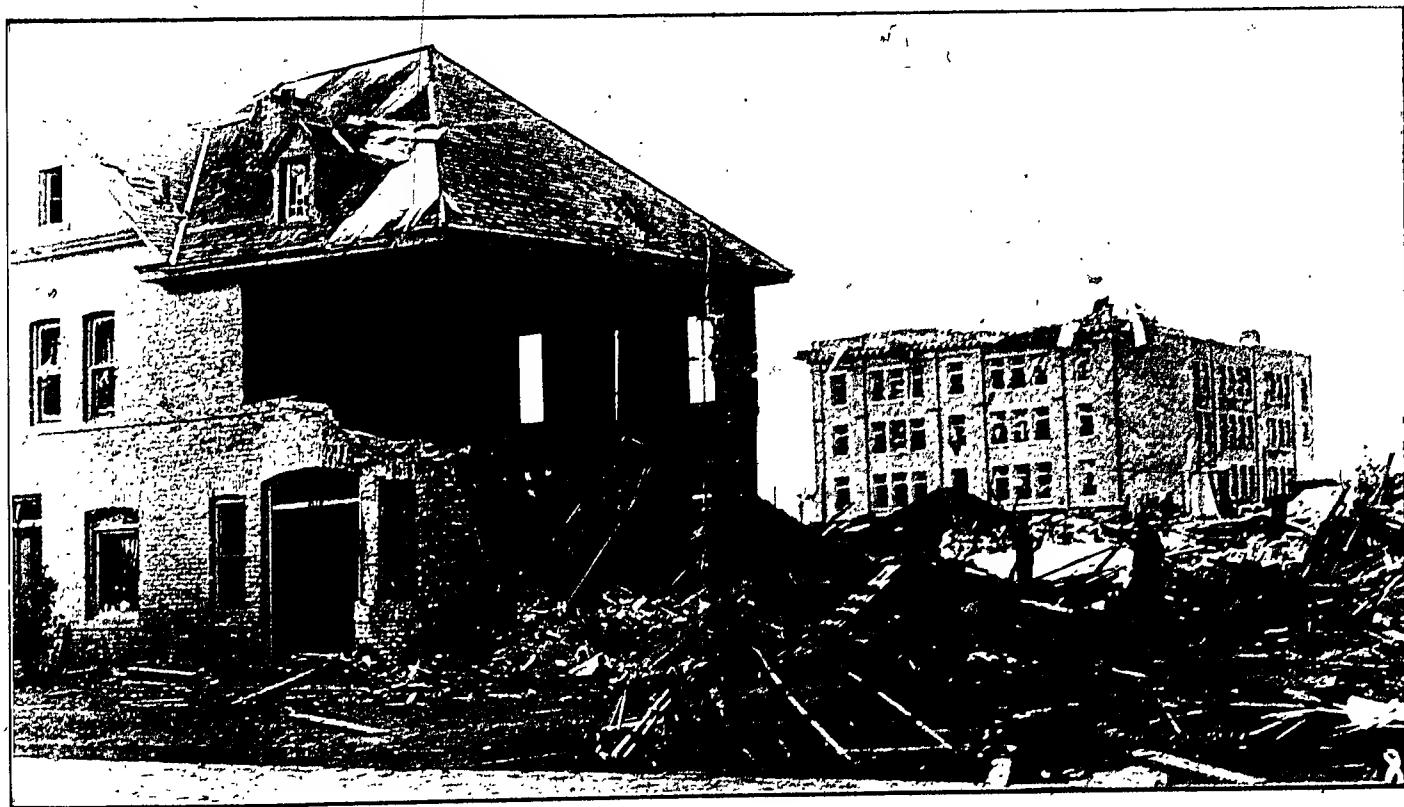


This shows the awful havoc on the North Side. Wreckage in foreground is that of freight sheds while beyond is seen the remnants of warehouses and residences.



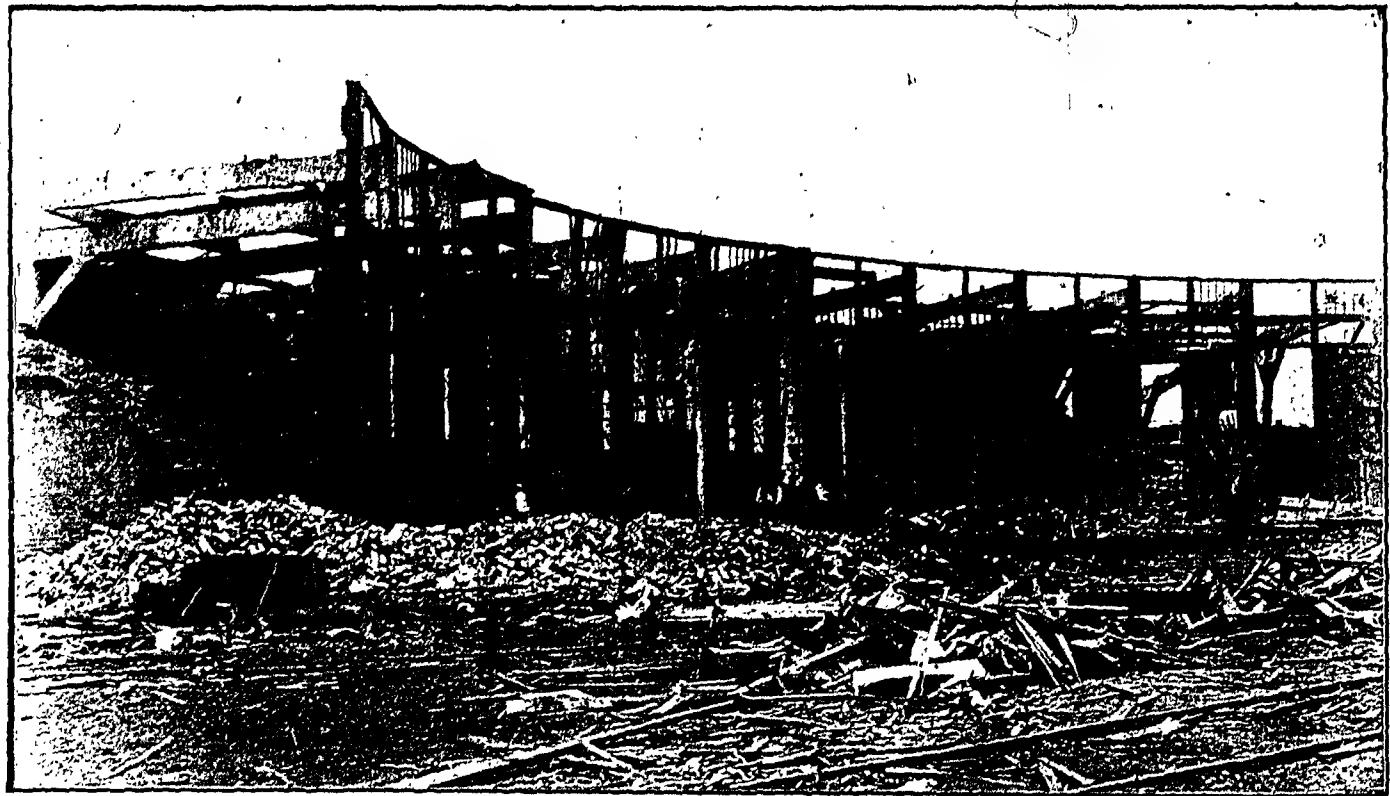
One of the storm's freaks. House at the left was completely destroyed while that next door was practically undamaged,

*—Photo by Rossie*



View on Cornwall Street, showing Telephone Exchange building site (in centre) and Donahue Block in background.

—Photo by Rossie



All that remains of the C. P. R. Roundhouse, a well built brick structure.

—Photo by Rossie



Knox Presbyterian Church and Y. M. C. A. on the north side of Victoria Park.

—Photo by Rossie



Lorne street looking south from Victoria Avenue, showing in the right the partially wrecked residence of Hon. Walter Scott, and dome of Parliament buildings in centre background.



The residential section south of Victoria Avenue suffered heavily. Ruins of Judge Lamont's residence shown here.

*—Photo by Rose*



Frame structures on the north side were broken into millions of pieces; a typical scene in this section of the city



This illustrates the destruction of residences on Smith Street; remains of residence of H. C. Lawson, Manager Regina Exhibition. — Photo by Ross



Railway cars, grain elevators and machinery warehouses are indiscriminately jumbled in the scene represented in this illustration

—Photo by Rossie



View from corner of South Railway and Cornwall Streets, wrecked warehouse in foreground

—Photo by Rose



Smith street showing the wreck of some of the finest residences in Regina, and a party of rescuers

—Photo by Rossie

